## Department of Water and Power



RICHARD I. RIORDAN Mayor

Commission RICK J. CARUSO, President KENNETH T. LOMBARD, Vice President JUDY M. MILLER DOMINICK W. RUBALCAVA MARCIA P. VOLPERT JOHN C. BURMAHLN, Secretary

S. DAVID PREEMAN, General Manager

April 24, 2000

**USDA-Forest Service** Contents Analysis Enterprise Team Attention UFP, Building, 2, Suite 295 550 Amelia Earhart Drive Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Ladies and Gentlemen:

## Unified Federal Policy for Watershed Management on Federal Lands

This letter comments on the proposed Unified Federal Policy for Watershed Management on Federal Lands (UFP). The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Department) fully supports the UFP. The approach will have a positive effect on improving watershed conditions and, thus, water quality. As a water utility, this is of utmost importance, especially since our watershed lands are downslope and downstream of federal lands.

Our Department is currently participating in collaborative approaches to watershed management in the Eastern Sierra. We welcome a commitment by federal agencies to collaborate and improve watershed management. The efforts of our Department to improve watershed conditions on our lands are highly dependent on management of federal lands that are located upstream. Working together, we can ensure our watersheds' health starting at the headwaters.

Proactive management of watersheds should focus on sound land and water management practices. This approach is proven and the most effective way to improving our aquatic resources. It leads to naturally sustainable ecosystems that result in healthy watersheds, thus reducing water treatment costs; minimizing sediment inputs into our aqueduct facilities; and keeping plant, wildlife, and aquatic resources in good condition.

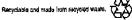
Again, we feel the UFP can only have a positive effect on watershed conditions and hope the Department of Agriculture endorses it fully.

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. ERB Director of Water Resources CAET RECEIVED

APR 24 2000

Water and Power Conservation ... a way of life



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THOMAS M. ERB **Director of Water Resources** 

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